

PLUM STREET TEMPLE

Eighth and Plum Streets, Cincinnati

“Moorish cathedral” may be a contradiction in terms, especially when applied to a synagogue, but it seems to fit the bill in describing this imposing and unusual building with its twin minarets towering above the facade. Built in 1865–1866, from designs by Cincinnati architect James Keys Wilson, Plum Street Temple is one of the nation’s most significant and best-preserved Moorish Revival buildings. Dr. Isaac Mayer Wise, rabbi at the time of construction, was an important figure in American Judaism. Under his leadership, Cincinnati became a center for Reform Judaism in America.